



"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."

ESTABLISHED 1877.

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THE GATLING GUN.

AT GARNETT'S, JUNE 27TH AND 28TH, 1862.

Stubborn Fighting and a Rebel Repulse—Who Had Charge of the Gatlings—A Detachment of the 49th Pa. Claims the Honor.

Correspondence of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., October 17, 1881.

In THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of September 10 "several old soldiers" ask when and where "Gatling" guns were first used in the Army of the Potomac, and an invitation is given for any one having knowledge of the facts to furnish a sketch of the battle in which they were used.

Now, I am glad that such a request has been made, because the battles in which I know they were used have been generally ignored, or at best lightly treated by the historians of the rebellion. I speak of the engagements of the 27th and 28th of June, 1862, on the right or south bank of the Chickahominy.

I will avoid using the various names by which these battles are known to those who are aware that they actually occurred, because of their diversity, and will speak of them by date only. I have been told more than once that there was no fighting on the south side of the stream on those two days, but I hope to prove by eminent authority that Golding's farm during that period was quite as unhealthy as the celebrated "Kidwell bottoms" of your beautiful Capital. Headley makes no mention of a fight on the right bank on the 27th, but says "the 28th was a quiet day to both armies, so far as hostilities were concerned." Greeley is equally reticent as to the 27th, and copies eleven short lines from General McClellan's report about the 28th, wherein, by the way, the General gives credit to the Twenty-third N. Y. regiment which rightfully belonged to the Thirty-third N. Y. Lossing says nothing about a fight on the 27th, and describes the battle of the 28th as

A "LITTLE FLURRY."

Abbott ignores both fights. Victor speaks only of the 28th, and as follows: "A furious artillery assault, * * * a dash of two regiments to possess and hold the intrenchments of General Smith," &c.

After this showing I commence my "yarn," whereby I hope to render a mite of justice to the men who fought on the south bank on those two days and whose services have been so generally ignored by our great historians. I hope also that my crude attempt in this direction may induce some one more able to write you a better article on the subject.

About the middle of June, 1862, certainly not later, and before we crossed the Chickahominy, two Gatling guns made their appearance in the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania regiment, Hancock's brigade, Smith's division, Franklin's (Sixth) Corps. I will not be positive, after so many years have elapsed, but I think they were a present from the State of Pennsylvania.

Two sergeants and six privates were detailed for duty with them, and your correspondent was one of the party. About the 18th of June, in the afternoon, we started to cross the stream; when about one-third of the way over we were met by the Duc de Chartres with orders from General McClellan to turn back everything on wheels, as a portion of the bridge had been swept away. The next day, in the afternoon, we passed safely over. On Thursday, the 26th of June, the "Gatlings" received their baptism of fire. While our main body on the north bank of the stream was engaged in the battle of Mechanicsville the enemy commenced a spirited cannonade on our division, which lay at Golding's farm on the south bank, nearly opposite Dr. Gaines's residence. I do not propose to enlarge on this day's work, although it caused mourning in more than one loyal family of the North and

KILLED AND WOUNDED SEVERAL HORSES, but will pass immediately on to the morning of Friday, June 27. We still occupied Golding's farm, but were pushed much nearer the rebel lines, and their artillery commenced on us early in the day, and by 10 o'clock there was quite a furious cannonade, which continued, with slight intermissions, all day. In the evening the performance was varied by an infantry assault on our brigade. We drove them back, but they kept up a continual fire until nearly midnight. In this fight I lost an intimate friend and comrade, and assisted to bury him and another man of my regiment. How many were killed and wounded I am unable to say.

In Moore's Rebellion Record will be found the following in relation to the 27th: "Smith's division at Golding's and Sedgwick's on his left occupied the most sensitive points on the whole line since Fair Oaks. * * * Hancock's and Barry's brigades held the most exposed lines. The former had taken a critical position in front of his intrenchments with a strong battery. He had hardly received the message sent to him by General Burns (relative to a movement on his front) before a rebel battery of heavy guns opened a furious storm of shell upon him; a moment later a strong brigade pounced upon his pickets, pressed them in irresistibly, and dashed at his battery. * * * Smith's batteries were hurling shells fast and furious and the rebel guns were bowling away as merrily.

The air was filled with bursting shells and suffused with sulphurous smoke, while the forests were obscured with musket mist. * * * Hancock was

VICTORIOUS AFTER A BITTER BATTLE." General McClellan, in his report of the battle of that day, says: "Batteries * * * in front of General Smith's line * * * helped to drive back the enemy in front of General Porter. So threatening were the movements of the enemy on both banks of the Chickahominy that it was impossible to decide until the afternoon where the real attack would be made."

General Franklin says: "The enemy opened early on the morning of the 27th, and there was very severe cannonading, with thirty guns on each side, I should judge lasting about an hour. * * * About dark two brigades of the infantry attacked General Hancock's brigade, which was in position as the advance of the picket line. He had a sharp engagement for about three-quarters of an hour, when the enemy was driven back. * * * We had a brisk cannonading for most of the day."

Jenkin and Norton, in their life of Gen. Hancock, write as follows of this fight: "His brigade, in conjunction with several other regiments and some batteries of artillery, repelled a strong attack of the enemy, * * *

THE BRIGADE LOST HEAVILY."

I could quote more authorities, but imagine you have enough. On the 28th we were assigned a position with the "Gatlings" outside our intrenchments on the face of the hill in front of Fort Davidson, which stood on the bluff near to, and on the south side of, the Chickahominy, and within a short distance of our position on the previous day. A few companies of the Thirty-third N. Y. and a few of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania were ordered out to feel for the enemy, and we were directed by Colonel Taylor, of the Thirty-third N. Y., who was officer of the day, to cover the retreat of our skirmishers back to the main line, which lay to the left and rear of our position; this we did, and stayed there until we were the last command of the Army of the Potomac, as a whole, to leave the banks of the Chickahominy, when, both horses being wounded, we retired in good order. Now, I wish to say in regard to that day's work up to about noon, that I have been in many severe engagements, but I think the face of that hill was about as warm a place that morning as could be found this side of—well, Cairo; standing, as we did, on the slope, all the shot and shell that came near to us could be distinctly seen plunging up the ground round us, and as we were under fire from three different points, I'll give you my word that the land in that neighborhood was ready for the seed when night came, and the men of Smith's division knew that they had been in a fight that day.

But I must go back to our skirmishers. As they emerged from the edge of the timber, retreating and firing, we could see from our exalted position the rebels in force following them slowly, and each man taking shelter behind a tree as he came to the open ground. Our boys having to cross a low, swampy piece of land between the enemy and us, the shots fired at them generally passed over their heads and struck the face of the hill

NEAR THE "GATLINGS."

A section of artillery was stationed up the stream, say about a half mile, and these guns were firing pieces of iron which made a noise something like a nail thrown by the hand, and we supposed it to be railroad iron; however, they all fell short and did us no damage; they served, though, to keep up their share of the general racket. Artillery was also posted on Gaines's Hill and kept warm for our benefit. Our skirmishers passed slowly across the open amidst this terrific fire, giving the rebels in the edge of the timber as good as they sent, and took position on our left with their respective brigades. Pretty soon the enemy, emboldened by their success in driving in our pickets and skirmishers, made a grand charge on our division; they were handsomely repulsed; they charged again and were again driven back; a third time, and with renewed shouts and terrible earnestness, they strove to drive us back and a third time they were repulsed with great loss.

Ask the survivors of that charge if there was a battle on that day on the south side of the stream. I quote again from Moore's Rebellion Record: "About 9 o'clock an awful cannonade was opened on Smith's position from two forts in Garnett's field, a battery at Fitz John Porter's old position and another below it on the left bank of the Chickahominy. * * * The fire was terrible. General McClellan says 'the enemy opened on Smith's division from Garnett's Hill, from the valley above, and from Gaines's Hill on the opposite side.'"

General Davidson reports "The conduct of the Thirty-third N. Y., Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, and the Seventh Maine under this terrible concentrated fire * * * was all that could be desired."

After the "Gatlings" left the field I rejoined my regiment, and did not see them again until we arrived at Harrison's Landing. From this place I think they were sent back to Pennsylvania, and this is all I know about Gatling guns.

It seems strange to me that no one ever acknowledged the services of these guns. It surely was some one's duty to report them, but as yet I have never read a line about them, official or otherwise. ONE OF HANCOCK'S BRIGADE.

OLD WORLD NEWS.

WHAT THE OLD WORLD SAYS TO THE NEW.

Sale of the Great Eastern—Unhappy Ireland—Trial of the Nihilists—The Pope Complains of His Imprisonment in the Vatican.

IRELAND.—It is stated that the Dublin authorities contemplate arrests in Belfast and other parts of the North of Ireland. Messrs. Sexton, Dillon, and O'Brien are charged with being reasonably suspected of treasonable practices. Mr. Synan, organizer of the King's and Queen's counties and of the Westmeath Leagues; Mr. White, secretary of the Clara League; and Henry Egan, secretary of the Tullamore League, have been arrested and lodged in Naas jail.

There are 23 persons in the Limerick Hospital with bayonet wounds.

Eleven men, returning from working a "boycotted" farm near Portlinton, were fired upon, and five were wounded, one of them seriously. This is the affair that led to the arrest of Andrew and Patrick Gallagher, on suspicion of firing the shots, as before mentioned.

The fifty-second regiment has been ordered to Ireland.

Riots renewed at Dublin and Limerick. Two women wounded.

The trial of the four Nihilists, members of the Black Division, who were indicted for secretly printing a revolutionary paper, has terminated. The women Kriolova and Plankoff, and Prikhodko were exiled to Tobolsk, and Perepletchkoff was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that if the Land Act fails, a new system of government must be proposed for Ireland.

The Pope complains of his imprisonment in the Vatican.

The Irish Land League has issued a manifesto advising tenants to pay no more rent.

Riots are reported as continuing in Dublin and other parts of Ireland.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says: "The eighty-seventh anniversary of the execution of Marie Antoinette, which occurred on the 16th inst., was celebrated at the Chapelle Expiatoire."

The *Standard's* Rome despatch says: "A meeting between Prince Bismarck and M. Gambetta did take place. Emperor William and Prince Bismarck have offered the Pope an asylum at Cologne."

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* says: "Herr von Hobe, ex-Minister of Finance, has formally taken stand against the government, and is especially fighting against the tobacco monopoly."

The British steamship giant *Great Eastern* is to be sold at auction next month, unless previously disposed of at private sale.

HOME NEWS ITEMS.

Guiteau's defense will be insanity. His counsel, Mr. Scoville, has as yet not succeeded in securing the services of another attorney to assist in the case. Dr. Hammond will not be a witness.

General Hazen is hunting after the Professor King balloons.

Land frauds have been discovered in the General Land Office.

Mr. J. H. Rainey, colored, formerly member of Congress from South Carolina, is a candidate for the clerkship of the House of Representatives.

It is rumored that President Arthur will announce his new Cabinet early next week.

Ben Butler has declined to act as counsel for Guiteau.

Howgate is in a bad way.

Great floods reported in the west.

A plain, unpretending granite shaft marks the last resting place of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the battle of Lake Erie. It is proposed to place a more imposing monument over his grave at once.

Lieutenant General Sheridan, President of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, has, in accordance with a resolution of that society, appointed the following-named members of the society a committee to take measures for the erection of a monument to the late President Garfield by the society: General James Barnett, of Cleveland, chairman; General J. C. Smith, Chicago; General A. G. McCook, New York; Colonel H. C. Corbin, Washington; General W. A. Robinson, Pittsburg; General A. B. Underwood, Boston; Lieutenant John Ruhm, Nashville; General Henry M. Cist, Cincinnati, and General J. G. Parkhurst, Detroit.

General F. D. Sloat, accompanied by a number of the members of Admiral Foote Post, G. A. R., visited Colchester, Conn., last week for the purpose of organizing in that town a Post of the order.

At the Reunion of the First New York Veteran Cavalry in Elmira, N. Y., two comrades met who had not seen or heard from each other since they parted outside the gate of Andersonville prison, where they had been confined for eight months.

The excursion of Lincoln Post, No. 140, G. A. R., of Shamokin, Pa., to Philadelphia, last week, was very successful.

RIOTS IN IRELAND.

Serious riots are reported in Ireland. They are more remarkable for the temper they indicate than for the damages they accomplished. At Dublin the police ran amuck, charging windy orators at the Nelson Pillar, knocking out of them both wind and oratory, upsetting the proprietor of a respectable hotel and shattering the eyeglass of an unoffending member of Parliament. At Limerick matters were much graver, and the notice which Mr. Egan sent to Mr. Forster, saying that the soldiers there stationed would take the first opportunity to fire on the people, came very near fulfillment. Fortunately the brunt of the battle fell on the police, who charged and charged again without dispersing the mob. Showers of stones drove them back to their barracks, and then the Scots Greys tried in vain to clear the streets. Slates were thrown from the house-tops, missiles of every kind were hurled, houses were wrecked, several of the constabulary were wounded, arrests were made, and at last, after prolonged fighting, the combatants separated for the night in a state of bitter exasperation.

A DISASTROUS WEEK.

The *Herold's* London correspondent under date of October 17, says:

One hundred and thirty British and foreign vessels were wrecked last week, being an increase of 104 over the previous week. The approximate value of the property lost is £8,000,000, of which the sum of £6,000,000 represents the British losses. Eighty-five vessels, principally British, were lost off the coast of the United Kingdom during the great gale, against only twenty wrecks in the early part of the week in all parts of the world. One hundred and thirty-eight persons were reported lost or missing. Accounts received subsequent to the compilation of these statistics state that down to last evening fifty-nine fishermen belonging to Burnmouth and Eyemouth are known to have been drowned, and that 140 others belonging to both places are missing. News has reached Berwick that several boats which it was feared had been lost during the late hurricane took refuge at May Island, in the Frith of Forth. The gale of last Friday extended to Paris, Havre, Dieppe and Calais, and to Germany. Great damage and loss of life throughout North Germany resulted from the late gale. The river Elbe rose twelve feet above its normal level and is covered with wreckage. Several vessels were stranded at Altona. The loss of petroleum is enormous. Five German vessels were wrecked at Bremen and some members of their crew were drowned.

THE CAMPAIGN IN TUNIS.

The London *Times's* correspondent at Tunis says: "As well as an advance upon Kairouan it will be the endeavor of the French to surround the insurgents in Northern Tunis by a combined movement under General St. Jean from Testour, Beja and Kef. The preparations for the Kairouan expedition are altogether out of proportion to the avowed object. There are some hundreds of ambulance wagons at Manouba. The commissariat alone has engaged two thousand carts." Arabs yesterday attacked Mornak, close to the city of Tunis, pillaging the neighboring farms. General Toregot has decided to repair and protect the railway immediately. General Sabatier has defeated the insurgents in a second battle. A French column has left Tebessa, Algeria, for South Tunis. The insurgents lost 800 killed after six hours' fighting in the engagement on Friday last between General Sabatier's column and Arabs in the neighborhood of Zaghouan. The military authorities have decided to occupy Mehdiia.

WHO EARLY IS.

HAVANA, December 18, 1865.

Having seen it stated in several papers published in the United States that I am an applicant for pardon, I desire to say through your columns that there is no truth whatever in the statement. I have neither made nor authorized such application, and would not accept a pardon from the President of the United States if gratuitously tendered me without conditions or restrictions of any kind. I have not given a parole or incurred any obligation to the authorities of the United States, and I utterly disclaim all allegiance to or dependence upon the Government of that country. I am a voluntary exile from my own country, because I am not willing to submit to the foreign yoke imposed upon it. All the declarations attributed to me which are inconsistent with the above statement are entirely without foundation, and I hope there will be no further misapprehension as to my position. (Signed) JUBAL A. EARLY.

The files of the New York *News*, issued about January 1, 1866, contains this remarkable letter, and its genuineness will not admit of a doubt.

THE CENSUS OF NEW MEXICO.

Census bulletin No. 267 furnishes the following totals of the results of the first count of the population of the Territory of New Mexico, complete: Population, 119,565; male, 64,496; female, 55,069; native, 111,514; foreign, 8,051; white, 108,721; colored, 10,844. The Indian and half-breed population numbers 9,790, and the Chinese, 56.

YORKTOWN CENTENNIAL.

SCANTY PREPARATION FOR VISITORS.

Insufficient Accommodations—High Prices, Dust, and Discomfort—A Reception by the Governor of Virginia—Laying the Corner-Stone.

Contrary to public expectation the Yorktown Centennial celebration turned out to be, on the whole, an unsatisfactory affair. There seems to have been no adequate preparations made for the reception of visitors or even of invited guests. Nor was there proper attention paid to the distinguished arrivals. President Arthur and his suite found no one present to welcome them, nor did Secretary Blaine and the French guests accompanying him. These latter, after waiting at the wharf for some time in expectation of being conducted to the places assigned them to witness the laying of the corner-stone on Tuesday, returned to their vessels in evident disgust.

There was also a want of harmony among the invited guests from abroad, the French and German visitors keeping aloof from each other as much as possible.

The dedicatory ceremonies were witnessed by all the prominent invited guests except Secretary Blaine and the Frenchmen, who were absent for the reason stated above. During the morning of the 18th the Governor of Virginia held a reception, at which many distinguished persons were present. There was much comment, however, over the fact that few prominent representative men from the South were present, nor were there many ladies from any section of the country.

About noon the crowd moved to the stand where the services were to be held, and after a prayer the Governor of Virginia delivered

THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

after which the Masonic fraternity went through with their part according to programme. There was a manifest feeling of relief experienced by all when the ceremonies were at an end.

There were between 10,000 and 15,000 people present. The remainder of the day was spent by the soldiers in parades and drills, and by others in strolling about sight seeing.

In spite of a slight rain in the morning the weather afterwards became hot and the roads exceedingly dusty, making it decidedly uncomfortable to pedestrians.

Some of the soldiers also became disorderly, causing frequent disturbances. The Ninth Massachusetts appeared very much dissatisfied, and did not conduct themselves, as a body, in a manner becoming to themselves or the State they represented.

At night there was a fine display of

FIREWORKS

from the shipping, which served somewhat to distract attention from the personal discomforts of those who witnessed it.

Great complaint was made from the start, by those attending the celebration, on account of the vast number of side-shows, catch-penny contrivances, gamblers, &c., &c., admitted to the ground. The police from Richmond made some effort to drive these all from camp, but did not altogether succeed, although they somewhat bettered the situation. Another imposition practiced upon visitors was the exorbitant prices charged for lodging and food, as high as twenty dollars per day being demanded for even the poorest accommodations. On the whole, it is doubtful if any of those who were present will ever desire to attend another gathering under similar auspices.

The military parade on Thursday, and the naval review on Friday, were commendable, considering the small number of troops present, and the poverty of the Navy of the United States.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN M'CREA.

Captain E. P. McCrea, commanding the flagship Tennessee, died suddenly of apoplexy at Yorktown, on Friday of last week, and the remains were taken to the Norfolk Naval hospital for burial. Captain McCrea was a native of New York, where his wife and children now are. He was appointed from Wisconsin, entered the service October 16, 1849, and was thus in the Navy thirty-two years, lacking two days, when he died. His last cruise ended July, 1876. He was a member of the Board of Inspection.

IMMIGRATION LAST MONTH.

During the month of September there arrived in the customs districts of Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Huron, Minnesota, New Orleans, New York, Passamaquoddy, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, 69,924 passengers—of whom 58,452 were immigrants, 8,380 citizens of the United States returned from abroad, and 3,092 aliens not intending to remain in the United States. Of this total number of immigrants, there arrived from England and Wales, 8,997; Ireland, 5,633; Scotland, 1,971; Austria, 1,043; Belgium, 241; Denmark, 460; France, 613; Germany, 19,608; Hungary, 490; Italy, 1,162; Netherlands, 548; Norway, 1,953; Poland, 195; Russia, 705; Sweden, 3,703; Switzerland, 896; Dominion of Canada, 8,710; China, 976; and from all other countries, 488.

There are, in the world, about 1,100,000 miles of telegraph wire, not including ocean cables.